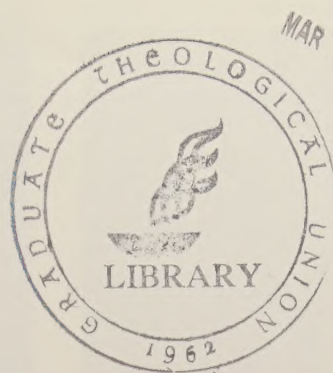




CXXI

No. 1-2

Leaves of Healing



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Publication of the Christian Catholic Church
An Evangelical Protestant Church
Headquarters — Zion, Illinois, U.S.A.

"SOUTH AFRICAN TRIP — AN HISTORIC OCCASION"

A report by General Overseer Roger W. Ottersen of his trip to South Africa and Malawi and of the Conference with the Amazoni Leaders at Etembeni on October 19-21, 1984

yleene and I left Zion on a beautiful fall day when the leaves were at the height of their color. It was October 15th, and two of our children, and Beth, were able to drive us to the Airport for our flight to South Africa.

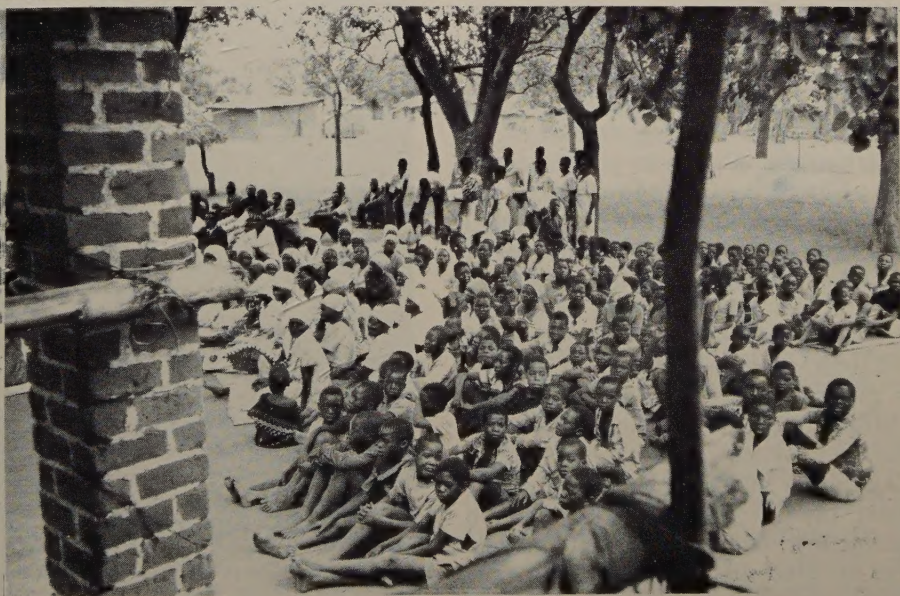
How refreshing it was to be back at Etembeni, the Mahon Mission Headquarters, after a nineteen hour flight and a three hour drive from the Johannesburg Airport. Despite the lateness of the hour, a lovely leg-of-mutton dinner was waiting for us, prepared by the Waddington, Rev. Edgar

Mahon's secretary, and Jenny Edwards. Ivan and Jenny Edwards are missionaries with the Mahon Mission and have been a great help, particularly in the building programs of the mission organization.

The Conference with the Amazoni leaders was held at the Chapel facility at Etembeni. The purpose of this Conference was to discuss and approve the proposed constitution which would bring many different groups into a working fellowship with the Christian Catholic Church and with each other. One of the early arrivals was Rev. Kan-

dume who had established a work in South Africa, near the Angolan border. Rev. Kandume for years was affiliated with the Amazoni movement and was seeking for further understanding of the truth of the Gospel. After being put in contact with the Mahon Mission he has developed into a wonderful worker for God. He gave his testimony this way, "We were in darkness long enough, and now we have found the true light - we have found the true Zion."

Rev. Kandume had travelled approx-



ing of C.C.C. members in Kamera Village, north of Lilongwe, capital of Malawi.

imately three days by car to reach Etembeni, and in his coming, had brought the gift of a beautiful but very large basket. We wondered how we would ever get it back to the United States, but we did get it home.

The Conference was a great blessing to my own heart, as in prayer and sharing the Word of God we felt the presence of God - unto Whom the meetings had been committed. Chosen to serve as President of the Christian Catholic Church in South Africa after the constitution had been discussed and approved was Rev. Elliot Mngadi. Mr. Mngadi was a former mayor of one of the townships in South Africa and a man who had been invited by the United States government to visit our country. While he was here in the States he insisted upon visiting Zion. In Zion he had been entertained by our own mayor and dined in Shiloh House which was the original home of Dr. Dowie.

For a further report on the Conference see the other article in this issue.

Following the Conference it was our privilege to share in a morning Chapel service at the Dutch Reformed Theological Training School, an hour's drive from Etembeni. Rev. Mahon and I travelled there on the Monday morning following the Conference. The head of that school had visited in Zion a couple of months prior and so when learning of our presence in South Africa, invited us to share with the students and faculty. A question time followed my message and Rev. Mahon had the opportunity of giving the history of the Mahon Mission and of the African independent churches.

On Friday, October 26th, Rev. Mahon and his wife, Netta, and Gayleene and I flew to Malawi for six precious days of fellowship and ministry there. We were greeted at the International Airport by six pastors of the Christian Catholic Church in Malawi. Travelling from the airport, we were taken to a motel where we would be staying for the next couple of days in the capital city of Lilongwe. Travelling this route takes us right past the sight where the church in Lilongwe is planning to erect a new Christian Catholic Church building. The next day we travelled a little over an hour to Kapupuzya Village where a large settlement of Christian Catholic Church people live. Approximately 300 people met to greet us—some about a mile from the little church, singing and



General Overseer Ottersen being introduced to the Chief of Kamera Village at afternoon service.



Netta and Edgar Mahon at home of Rev. Jeremiah in Ntcheu, Malawi.



Choral group at Likubula Bible Institute. Young man on far right in dark suit is another C.C.C. man in training for the ministry. He will graduate in 1986.



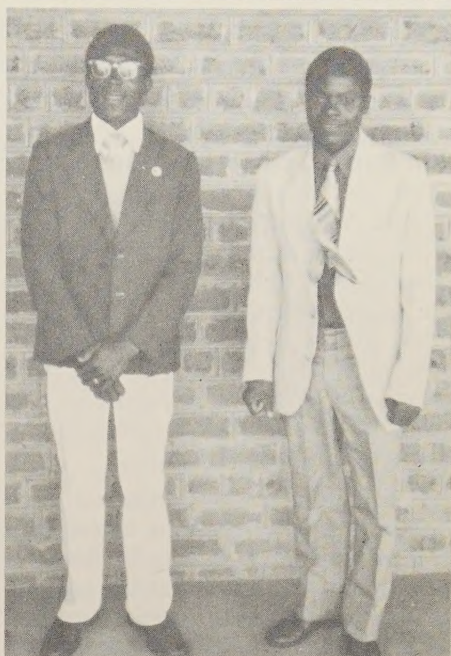
Church leaders of the C.C.C. in Malawi located in and around Lilongwe, the capital city.



Meeting at outdoor meeting at Kamera Village.



Mrs. Samson Kapatu with Overseer and Mrs. Ottersen.



Two young men in their senior year of study for ministry in the C.C.C. of Malawi, now serving as "interns" of the C.C.C. in Ntcheu under Pastor Jeremiah.

marching, swinging palm branches as a very special welcome.

Arriving at the church, we were crowded into the building where a brief introduction and welcoming service was held. The leader of the Zion movement all across Malawi, Rev. Samson Kapatu, lives in this village. He is looked upon as the "Father" of Zion. He was ordained about the year, 1934, as one of the early leaders of the Christian Catholic Church in Malawi. After some light refreshments, a major service was conducted outside where some three to four hundred villagers gathered together. It was my privilege to meet the Chief of the village who also attended.

Travelling throughout Malawi was Pastor Jeremiah who serves in Ntcheu. Ntcheu is located about half way between Lilongwe, the capital and the large city of Blantyre in the southern section of the country. Travelling with Pastor Jeremiah, who served as our interpreter for all the services, was Pastor Austen Nkunta Uzeni who lives in Lemwe Village, just outside of Lilongwe.

One of the greatest joys we had while in Malawi was to personally meet three of the five young men who are being trained for the ministry at the Likubula Bible Institute in Blantyre. Four of these young men will graduate this June and will go into the ministry of the Christian Catholic Church in Malawi. Two of those four are serving their senior year internship with Pastor

Jeremiah at Ntcheu. One other young man I was able to meet when I spoke for Chapel at the Likubula Institute. This school is sponsored by the Africa Evangelical Fellowship. This is the same mission organization which our own Darrell and Barbara Hockersmith serve as missionaries in Angola, Africa. We were happy to meet the senior young men who were in their internship and one student who was at the school when we were there. Two other seniors were serving at a distant area and we were unable to meet them personally. We are grateful for the splendid training they are receiving at the Likubula Bible Institute.

We found great joy in ministering to the various congregations throughout Malawi and after visiting in Blantyre with one of the churches and speaking at the Bible Institute, we journeyed back to Lilongwe. There we met with seventeen of the pastors of the churches in the Lilongwe area. This was a very wonderful time of sharing and fellowship together. We found these men eagerly seeking to learn more from the Word of God and they were very anxious to receive our book, "This We Believe," in order to know the history of the Christian Catholic Church and the teachings of Zion.

After spending a week in Malawi we flew back to South Africa. We had one day to make preparations and pack to travel several hours to the Indian Ocean coast of South Africa - to the Durbin area. In Durbin, a large tent that would seat 1,000 was set up in the church yard by the Mahon Mission Church at KwaMashu.

It was our privilege to speak in this tent to a large congregation that represented a number of the Amazioni people in and around the Durbin area as well as having the fellowship of the Mahon Mission Church at KwaMashu taking part. Several choirs sang and it was my joy to preach the Gospel. We were thankful for a good response to the message that day. It was thrilling to hear the testimony of one man who stated that a number of them met every morning at the train depot as they were preparing to go into the city for work. They would meet for prayer, then distribute tracts and other gospel literature on the commuter train as they travelled. It was a thrill to see that a number of the Amazioni people, along with leaders of the Mahon Mission Church, were working together in reaching out for Christ.

After the worship service Rev.

Mahon and I met for over an hour with a number of the Amazioni pastors and leaders. We were able to share with them what had happened at the Conference, how the constitution was approved and distribute to them copies of the constitution. They were eager to receive not only the constitution but also a Minister's Manual which we had given to the leaders at the Conference. This manual for ministers will give assistance to them in the conducting of Consecration Services, Baptismal Services, Marriage Ceremonies, etc.

In the days ahead, we were able to visit a number of congregations such as the church in ThabaNchu, Kimberley, and Steynsburg, and then Port Elizabeth.

It was also a joy for us to meet Rev. Fred Buchler, the pastor of an Afrikaans Baptist Church in the city of Kimberley. It was his grandfather who was the first contact in South Africa of the Christian Catholic Church in America. He came under the influence of the literature of the Christian Catholic Church during the time of Dr. Dowie and made a trip to Chicago and met with him. He became a member of the Christian Catholic Church and returned to South Africa as an Elder of the Church and was very much involved with Zion in the early years.

His grandson, Rev. Fred Buchler, will be with us in Zion during Holy Week Services, between Palm Sunday and Easter Lord's Day, God willing, in 1985.

What a joy it was to worship with the fellowship at ThabaNchu in the new church building that had been built there since our last trip in 1980.

We were also happy to have a time of fellowship with the church in Steynsburg and to pray together at their building site where a new building will be erected to the glory of God. They are presently meeting in a very, very humble dwelling in the township. Presently, the members of the church in Steynsburg are buying bricks and quite a supply is currently being stored at the church site. Each of the women will be donating one bag of cement to help in the construction of this building. They have awaited a building a long time and we are grateful that their site has now been acquired. We had a delightful time sharing the Gospel with these friends and sharing with them the experiences of the Conference at Etembeni and the results of that Conference in the uniting together of a large number of the Amazioni

people.

We were delighted for the opportunity of speaking at the Dutch Reformed Theological Training School, as I mentioned earlier, as well as the Likubula Bible Institute in Malawi. In addition to this, we spoke at another school sponsored by the Africa Evangelical Fellowship, the Johannesburg Bible Institute. We were also able to minister, on several occasions, in the Soweto area with Amazioni people. It was also my privilege to speak at one quarterly session of the Mahon Mission Churches.

At the quarterly meetings in each district, the pastors and delegates come to report on the happenings in their churches and to bring the quarterly tithes and offerings—out of which the pastors are paid and other expenses met. The quarterly meetings create a great unity as burdens and blessings are shared in prayer and praise.

Just prior to our leaving South Africa, we spent three days in relaxed travel down the coast to Cape Town. There we did some sight-seeing and took the cable car to the top of Table Mountain. We also visited the great Anglican Cathedral and the Dutch Reformed Church which was once pastored by Dr. Andrew Murray. What a thrilling experience!

In our trip to South Africa, we were able to take an 800 watt Honda gasoline generator to the Mahon Mission to use in their tent and other multiple uses. This had been donated by one of the businessmen in our community. Before leaving South Africa we were able to see the new Hewlett Packard Computer being set up, which special as well as regular donations had made possible. What a time and labor saver that will be.

For several years, and especially since our visit in 1980, it has been the prayer of our heart that God would enable our church to send a missionary couple to be of assistance to "The People of Zion" in South Africa. They would work under the leadership of the Mahon Mission, our official voice in southern Africa. Pray with us that this desire may come to fruition in 1985. The time to help is now!

We thank God for the wonderful way we saw prayer answered for the Conference at Etembeni in October 1984. We ask your prayers for eight member Executive Council of the New Christian Catholic Church of Zion organization, and for the newly elected president, Mr. Elliot Mngadi. Pray

O for Rev. Edgar Mahon who is
ving as our official representative in
s new organization. And let us
aise God together for this great work
at He is doing.

"The People of Zion"

AMAZIONI: Those who claim their
gin from Dr. John Alexander Dowie
d the Christian Catholic Church of
on, Illinois, U.S.A. They continue
emphasis on:

Salvation, Healing and Holy Living
Baptism by Triune Immersion
Emphasis on clean foods
Wearing of white robes
"Peace To Thee" greeting.

SOUTH AFRICA: The most
veloped nation on the continent of
frica—with the highest standard of
ing for both blacks and whites.

Population: White: 5,000,000
(approx.) Blacks: 20,000,000
Coloreds: 2,500,000
Asians: 750,000

It is estimated that one out of every
ur or five blacks is a member of an
nazioni church. There are over 3,000
ferent Amazioni or African In-
pendent groups registered with the
vernment.

OTHER COUNTRIES: Zionists are
o found throughout other nations of
uthern Africa, including, Malawi,
anskei, LeSotho, Swaziland, South
est Africa (Namibia) and Zimbabwe.

Our World-Wide Work:

Phoenix, Arizona
Tonalea, Arizona
Michigan City, Indiana
Australia
Canada
Great Britain
Guyana, South America
Israel
Jamaica
Philippines
South Africa
Malawi

Other missionaries supported in
Angola, Africa
Egypt
United Arab Emirates

Prayer is more than something we
It is providing an avenue of action
Almighty God.

The Development and Relationship Between the Mahon Mission, The African Independent Churches, and the Christian Catholic Church in Zion, Illinois, U.S.A.

The Mahon Mission and the Africa
Independent Churches (Amazioni)
date back to the time of the founding
of the Christian Catholic Church - in
1896. About that time, copies of
Leaves of Healing came to South
Africa and many people were influen-
ced through them. There was one man
in particular who became a key figure
and that was Johannes Buchler. Rev.
Buchler had a lot of contact with Dr.
Dowie in those days and was appointed
by Dr. Dowie as an Elder for South
Africa.

In the year 1897, Rev. Buchler went
down to Durbin for a holiday. On his
way home, he stopped for a little while
with his step-sister, Mrs. Edgar H.
Mahon. When he arrived there, he
found Mr. Mahon desperately ill and
shared with him the message of salva-
tion, healing and holy living—the
message of the Christian Catholic
Church. He assured Mr. Mahon that
the Lord could heal him. He prayed for
him and he was healed instantly.

At the time of his healing, Edgar
Mahon was an officer in the Salvation
Army, working amongst the Zulu peo-
ple, and had become a leading authori-
ty of their customs, ways and laws.
Edgar Mahon began proclaiming the
Zion message and praying for the sick.
This brought him into a little conflict
with the Salvation Army so he resigned
and continued a ministry on his own.

In 1904, the Christian Catholic
Church sent out two couples to South
Africa. One was Overseer Daniel
Bryant and his wife, and the other was
a deacon and his wife, Mr. and Mrs.
Rideout. They made their home in
Johannesburg and this became the
center of the Christian Catholic
Church work which developed largely
among the whites.

Another man who had been strongly
influenced by the Leaves of Healing, as
well as by Rev. Buchler, was P. J.
LeRoux who was a missionary in the
Dutch Reformed Church. Rev.
LeRoux did extensive mission work
then for the Christian Catholic Church
and Overseer Bryant would visit be-
tween LeRoux in northern Transvaal
and Rev. Mahon in the Orange Free
State. Both works became a part of the
Christian Catholic Church in Zion of

South Africa.

In 1909, three men came to South
Africa, purporting to be from the
Christian Catholic Church. They
brought the Pentecostal teaching of
"tongues," but the black folk in Edgar
Mahon's churches refused to accept it
as it did not fit their understanding of
Scripture. Rev. LeRoux, on the other
hand, accepted it, which led to a split.
Rev. LeRoux then founded a new
fellowship called The Apostolic Faith
Mission. The work was almost entirely
among whites as many of the black
leaders refused to follow him because
he had changed the name of the work.
These black leaders continued in the
name of the Christian Catholic Church
in Zion of South Africa. A number of
the groups adopted the name Christian
Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion of
South Africa. However, many of these
under both names were strongly in-
fluenced by the Pentecostal teaching.

The work under Rev. Edgar H.
Mahon continued among the blacks
with the name Christian Catholic
Church in Zion until 1947. At that
time, the black leaders requested the
name be changed to the Mahon Mis-
sion because so many other groups
were calling themselves the Christian
Catholic Church but were not follow-
ing the teachings of the parent church
in Zion, Illinois. The Christian
Catholic Church has never been
pentecostal in its teachings.

In 1957, because the Mahon Mission
was not recognized by the government,
and because only those churches so
recognized were given church sites in
the many developing black townships,
it was felt best to become associated
with the South African Baptist Mis-
sionary Society—though they still
maintained their own identity.

The Mahon Mission today has 300
ordained and lay preachers, evangelists
and missionaries, serving 280 con-
gregations. Through a strong Biblical
emphasis on tithing and sacrificial giv-
ing, the pastors are supported through
the offerings of the congregations.
Church buildings also are largely the
result of the sacrificial giving of the
members.

The Mahon Mission is a self-



Gayleene Ottersen with Mrs. Langa at C.C.C. Conference at Etembeni. (Mrs. Langa's husband now with the Lord...one of the earliest Zionist contacts with the Mahon's.)

governing body with all policies and rules determined at the Annual Workers' Conference, held at Etembeni at Christmas-time. All officers of the Mission as well as the Executive Council are elected at this conference. Quarterly meetings are also held in each circuit. Qualified candidates for the ministry are sent for a three year course at a recognized Bible Institute.

The most rapid and remarkable church growth among the blacks of South Africa were those who were associated with P. J. LeRoux. Rev. Daniel Nkonyane, a dynamic Zulu leader, was an associate with P. J. LeRoux, who refused to go along with LeRoux's name of his new organization. Though accepting much of the Pentecostal teaching, he kept the name, Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion. It seems that largely from him, the work grew and divided—and multiplied and divided—until today there are over 3,000 different African Independent Church groups (Amazioni) in South Africa. Some of these have maintained considerable purity of doctrine, while others have departed far from the evangelical position of the Christian Catholic Church.

After the return of Overseer Daniel Bryant to the United States in 1908, the headquarters of the Christian Catholic Church in Zion, Illinois, lost contact with many of the Amazioni churches. In 1924, Overseer Van Buren



First Executive Council of the C.C.C. of South Africa elected at the Conference at Etembeni, October, 1984, with Superintendent Mahon first from the left, General Overseer Ottersen, sixth from left.



Service in Mahon Mission tent with many of the Amazioni leaders in the Durbin area. Tent pitched on the grounds of the Mahon Church at KwaNashu.



Business session at C.C.C. Conference at Etembeni, in Chapel.



Group of the C.C.C. Delegates at Conference at Etembeni.



C.C.C. leaders of the Port Elizabeth area with Rev. Mahon and General Overseer and Mrs. Ottersen.



Group of Mahon Mission pastors at a Quarterly Meeting on Nov. 18, 1984, the day General Overseer Ottersen spoke to them.



Rev. Kandume of Southwest Africa pictured with the basket he brought to the Conference as a gift for Overseer and Mrs. Ottersen.



Rev. & Mrs. Fred Buchler, pastor of the Afrikanse Baptist Church in Kimberley - scheduled to be with us, God willing, for Holy Week, 1985.

Shumaker was sent from Zion to minister to these groups. For the next six years or so, he visited and taught the Word of God, and ordained a number of men into the ministry.

One of those ordained by Overseer Shumaker travelled up through what was then called Southern and Northern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe and Zambia) into Malawi, preaching as he went. He brought the teachings of Zion to Malawi in 1934, and ordained twelve leaders. One of these twelve leaders is living today. He is Rev. Samson Kapatu, and is looked upon as the father of the Zion work throughout Malawi.

When Overseer Shumaker was about to leave South Africa for ministry in the Holy Land, he appointed Rev. Arnold Mellor to look after the churches. Elder Mellor lived in Cape Town and tried to keep in touch with the churches by correspondence. When his health broke, much of the correspondence was then directed to headquarters in Zion, Illinois.

A significant development in the

work occurred when Rev. Alfred Mahon, son of the founder, visited the United States and spent considerable time with the then General Overseer, Carl Q. Lee. Overseer Lee asked Rev. Mahon if he would take over the correspondence from these South African pastors and become the voice of Zion. Rev. Mahon was happy to do this, and shortly after retired from leadership in the Mahon Mission to devote more of his time with the Zionist people. After several years of voluminous correspondence, in 1965, a meeting was called of these Zionist leaders and about 350 leaders of different groups gathered in Pietermaritzburg. Several of the men who gathered were impressed by the presentation and vision of Elder Mahon, and many have continued a close contact with the Mahon Mission.

In the years following, Rev. Edgar Mahon, grandson of the Mahon Mission founder, had an increasing amount of contact with the Amazioni church leaders and found great acceptance by them. Each time he came to the United States, he shared his burden for these people and challenged the headquarters C.C.C. to seek a greater ministry to them. In 1975, Overseer and Mrs. Carl Q. Lee visited South Africa and in 1980, Overseer and Mrs. Roger Ottersen, along with Deacon and Mrs. Robert Peterson visited many of the Amazioni churches in South and southern Africa. The vast number of Amazioni churches all across southern Africa, many of which desired closer ties with the headquarters church in America, left a deep impression on the heart of Overseer Ottersen and all with him, and they in turn laid this burden upon the church.

In subsequent visits of Edgar Mahon to Zion, a proposed constitution for the Amazioni churches was drawn up. An invitation was then extended to a number of the Amazioni leaders to attend a Conference to be held at Etembeni, October 19-21, 1984, to consider the proposed constitution to organize them into a unity. This Conference was attended by eighty-four leaders, representing a good geographical cross section of South Africa. There were precious times of prayer, Bible teaching and sharing prior to the discussions on the proposed constitution. After careful study and prayerful consideration, with some minor changes, the constitution was accepted by most of those present. A President was then elected to serve a two year period as well as an eight

member Executive Council, which will meet three or four times a year to discuss matters important to the group. Rev. Edgar Mahon was appointed as the official representative of the C.C.C. headquarters church in Zion, Illinois. Since the initial conference, many other groups throughout southern Africa, including Malawi, have united under the constitution.

The headquarters church in Zion, Illinois has become very challenged by the opportunity for further fellowship and ministry to the Amazioni people and are praying earnestly for a couple to be sent in 1985 to give assistance to the work there.

The question might be asked, "If the African Independent Churches (Amazioni) have made such remarkable progress in the years that there has been little contact with the headquarters church in Zion, why should we now seek a closer tie?" There are several good reasons, but let us consider two:

1. The Amazioni churches recognize the need for being a part of a larger C.C.C. organization for representation with the government and the benefits that will bring.

2. It will also work toward purer doctrinal beliefs and practices through the study of the "This We Believe" booklet, which has been translated into Zulu—as well as by helping more of their ministers get theological training in a Bible institute or seminary.

For us at the headquarters church in Zion, it gives an opportunity for extending the love and gospel of Jesus Christ to those who are united with us as "People of Zion." It is an opportunity we take to our heart in the love of Christ.

Pray for **ZION PASSION PLAY**

Performances
Every Saturday
in April and May
Plus Good Friday
and Friday, May 3rd

For information, call (312) 746-1411

In Memoriam

Mr. Robert E. Anderson, November 16, 1984, in Zion.

Mrs. Frank (Amelia) Sattler, nee Rahner, November 21, 1984, in Zion.

Mrs. Earl (Katherine) Taplin Jones, nee Petreman, December 30, 1984, in Madison, Wisconsin.

Mrs. Van Buren (Rosa) Shumaker, nee Grossmon, December 24, 1984, in California.

Mr. Percival Lawrence Buckle, January 16, 1985, in Zion.

Mr. Albert C. (Nellie H.) Jerdee, nee Nelson, January 20, 1985, in Zion.

Peace, Perfect Peace

Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin?

The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.

Peace, perfect peace, death shadowing us and ours?

Jesus has vanquished death and all its powers

—Edward H. Bickersteth

1985 Watchword

***"I will say of the Lord
He Is My Refuge
and My Fortress"***

Psalm 91:2

Psalm 91 is Zion's Household Psalm

CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

An Evangelical Protestant Fellowship
Roger W. Ottersen, General Overseer